

Planning

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Ms K Baker
c/o Carmel Edwards (Programme Officer)

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Please ask for Joanna Gray/Alison Gibson

Date 30th March 2017

Dear Ms Baker

Examination into the Soundness of the Gedling Borough Council – Local Planning Document, Local Plan Part 2

Further to the hearing session on Thursday 23rd March 2017 at which the proposed modification (**EX80**) in relation to Gypsies and Travellers was discussed, we have given further consideration to the approach to be taken by the new Gypsy and Travellers policy.

We would like to put forward the revised policy and supporting text as a proposed modification to the plan and reference will be made to this in the final schedule of changes that will be provided to you by Friday 7th April. In view of the urgency and importance of making provision for the Gypsy and Traveller community, it is now intended to provide a site within Gedling Borough to accommodate the Council's need for 3 pitches by 2019. We are mindful of comments made at previous sessions regarding the sustainability of providing a site for only 3 pitches, however we have had discussions with the Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group who have advised that sites for 3 pitches are indeed viable and particularly suited for smaller family groups.

We attach a letter from the Chief Executive for Gedling Borough Council (John Robinson) setting out the Council's firm commitment to progress this work quickly and that adequate resources are available to undertake this project, including financial support for a consultant's study to identify site options.

The Planning Policy team has identified the relevant search area and potential scope for sites. However, it is our intention to use independent consultants to carry out the site search and to identify suitable sites with a view to recommend a favoured option. In particular, the consultants would be expected to engage with community representatives at an early stage and to carry out a consultation exercise with the local community and Gypsy and Traveller Groups. We also attach for your information a proposed consultant's brief for this work.

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The likely timescales for this work is set in the proposed consultant's brief and are reproduced below:

Timetable

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Invitation to tender | April 2017 |
| • Deadline for return of tenders | Mid May 2017 |
| • Project start date | June 2017 |
| • Inception meeting | June 2017 |
| • Draft Report | August 2017 |
| • Final report | September 2017 |

Next steps

- Submission of planning application - autumn 2017
- Planning decision - by early 2018
- Construction of site - summer 2018
- Site operational - autumn 2018

Please let me know if you need any further information at this stage.

Yours sincerely,



Joanna Gray
Planning Policy Manager (J/S Wed – Fri)

Encs.